



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

the sooner will the quacks, both within and without the profession, be put out of business. The money that is now being wasted on useless and quack medicines is well-nigh sufficient to procure for the poor, deluded sufferers the food from the lack of which they are suffering.

A change of climate is of itself not an essential in the treatment and cure of pellagra. A change from city, village, or "camp" to a farm in the country has not infrequently been found to be beneficial. The benefit derived is to be attributed, however, not to the change of air, as is commonly thought, but rather to the fact that in the country the diet is improved by an abundance of milk, eggs, etc. Practically all the benefits of a "change of climate" may be had at home at the cost of two quarts of milk and half a dozen eggs or half a pound of stew beef a day.

The patient should be warned that a proper diet is not to be considered as a temporary thing which can be dispensed with after recovery from the attack. To avoid a recurrence of the disease and permanently to maintain health and vigor a properly selected diet is essential and must be maintained at all times. It is worth while emphasizing that if all people provided themselves and, at all times, ate a well-balanced diet, pellagra would disappear from the face of the earth. The gain to the country from the consequent reduction of sickness, invalidism, and death, and the increased physical vigor and happiness of the people can not be overestimated.

EFFECT OF THE AIR HAMMER ON THE HANDS OF STONE-CUTTERS.

In the Public Health Reports of March 22, 1918, appeared reports of investigations made by officers of this service in regard to health hazards from the use of the air hammer in cutting Indiana limestone.

A similar investigation has recently been made by Dr. Alice Hamilton for the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. Her report will appear in the April, 1918, issue of the monthly review of that bureau. Through the courtesy of Dr. Royal Meeker, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, there is given below the summary of the report made by Dr. Alice Hamilton:

Summary.

Among users of the air hammer for cutting stone there appears very commonly a disturbance in the circulation of the hands, which consists in spasmodic contraction of the blood vessels of certain fingers, making them blanched, shrunken, and numb.

These attacks come on under the influence of cold, and are most marked, not while the man is at work with the hammer, but usually early in the morning or after work. The fingers affected are in right-handed men the little, ring, middle, and more rarely, the index of the left hand, and the tips of the fingers of the right hand, with sometimes the whole of the index finger and sometimes the thumb. In left-handed men this condition in the two hands is reversed.

The fingers affected are numb and clumsy while the vascular spasm persists. As it passes over there may be decided discomfort and even pain, but the hands soon become normal in appearance and as a usual thing the men do not complain of discomfort between the attacks. There are no serious secondary effects following these attacks.

The condition is undoubtedly caused by the use of the air hammer; it is most marked in those branches of stonework where the air hammer is most continuously used and it is absent only in the one branch where the air hammer is used little or not at all. Stonecutters who do not use the air hammer do not have this condition of the fingers.

Apparently, once the spastic anemia has been set up it is very slow in disappearing. Men who have given up the use of the air hammer for many years still may have their fingers turn white and numb in cold weather.

According to the opinion of the majority of stonecutters, the condition does not impair the skill in the fingers for ordinary interior stonecutting and carving, but may make it impossible for a man to do outside cutting in cold weather or to take up a skilled trade which exposes the hands to cold.

The trouble seems to be caused by three factors—long continued muscular contraction of the fingers in holding the tool, the vibrations of the tool, and cold. It is increased by too continuous use of the air hammer, by grasping the tool too tightly, by using a worn, loose air hammer, and by cold in the working place. If these features can be eliminated the trouble can probably be decidedly lessened.

PREVALENCE OF MALARIA IN CERTAIN STATES DURING JANUARY, 1918.

The study of the prevalence and geographic distribution of malaria by the circularization of physicians has been carried on by the United States Public Health Service for several years. In cooperation with the State health authorities, the Public Health Service mails each month to the physicians in certain States cards on which each physician is asked to report the number of new cases of malaria occurring in his practice during the month. The reports show also the types